Foreign companies in oil exploration

699. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil exploration has been thrown open to international players, if so what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that 60 per cent of the oil exploration area is already brought under the licensing regime; if so, the details of the foreign investors to whom license has been issued so far and the FDI brought in by each of the investors; and

(c) whether the remaining oil exploration area would also be licensed to the foreign companies; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) To attract investments in exploration of oil and gas, the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), which was approved by the Government in February, 1997, provides a level playing field for both public sector companies and private sector companies, both Indian and Foreign, for the award of exploration acreages under the international competitive bidding.

(b) At present about 70% of the acreages under exploration are under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime through various private sector and public sector companies. However, information on the foreign direct investment is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Black marketing of CNG

†700. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the black marketing of CNG at the various filling stations in New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government will take measure for opening of more filling stations to check such black marketing and to provide CNG in adequate quantity; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when, Government propose to open more stations alongwith the number of stations likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No black marketing of CNG at the filling stations in Delhi has been reported. However, in order to improve the availability of CNG the Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has planned to increase the number of filling stations from 94 to 110 by March, 2003.

New oil refineries

†701. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for setting up of new oil refineries and to increase oil refining capacity of existing oil refineries in the country to increase further oil refining capacity is being considered;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of proposal under consideration regarding extent of increase in the capacity of public sector oil companies at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The details of project under consideration/implementation for expansion of refining capacity and setting up of grass root refineries by public sector oil companies are as follows:—

S. No.	Refiner Expansion	Capacity in million metric tonnes
1.	Refinery Expansion cum modernisation of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	3.0
2.	Barauni Refinery Expansion of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC)	1.8
3.	Panipat Refinery Expansion of IOC	6.0

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.